Edn & Pub. Health (1958) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No 1673 P. H

8

Dated 20 5 58

[Despatch Abstract.]

Drainage - Sewage effluents and industrial wastes causing river and beach pollution - Expert committee - to go into the question - Not necessary

Papers Recorded

Education and Public Health

D.O.No.22771-Spl/47-3 dated 16-5-1947.

My Dear Raman,

Sub:-Sanitation - Collection and disposal of sewage and industrial waste and river and beach pollution - Committee to investigate.

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I am desired to state that the Government propose to constitute a committee to examine the problems pertaining to the collection and disposal of sewage and industrial waste and river and beach pollution in the light of the suggestions made by the Bhore Committee on the subject in Chapter XIV Vol.II of its report and propose to appoint you as a member of the Committee. The other members will be the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (Buildings) and Defence, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (Irrigation) and the Chairman of the Madras City Improvement Trust and the Secretary of the Improvement Trust will be the Secretary to the Committee. I am to ask whether you agree to serve on the committee proposed.

Yours sincerely,

To

Sri A.V.Raman,
Editor, People's Health.
"Lloyd Corner,"
Royapettah, Madras.

Editor: A.V.Raman.

"Lloyd Corner"
Royapettah,
Madras 14
Dated 19th May 1947.

My dear Viswanathan,

Sub:- SANITATION - COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE AND RIVER AND BEACH POLLUTION-COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE.

Ref:- Your D.O.No.22771-Sn1./47-3 dated 16th May 1947.

Certainly with pleasure, I shall serve in the Committee and contribute to its deliberations my humble mite.

I find there is a significant omission in the constitution of the committee. I do not know whether you are aware that the King Institute, Guindy, is the repositary of much scientific work and investigation. I am sure the Director, King Institute, would be in a position to help the committee materially. I would therefore suggest to Government that the Director, King Institute, by name be appointed to the committee.

Yours sincerely,

Sd A.V.Raman.

To

P.S.Viswanatha Ayyar, Esq., I.C.S.
Joint Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Dept.
F.S.G. MADRAS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Education and Public Health Department

Memorandum No. 22771-Spl/47-5, dated 22-7-1947.

Sub:- Public Health - Collection and disposal of sewage and industrial waste and river and beach pollution - Commitee -

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A copy of a draft order which the Government propose to issue for the constitution of a committee for the investigation of the problems connected with the collection and disposal of sewage and industrial waste is forwarded to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (General & Works) for his remarks.

The Chief Engineer is also requested to suggest the budget head to which the expediture on account of the travelling allowance to the non-official members of the Committee may be debited.

To

The Chief Engineer,
(General & Works)

Sd. X

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

From
Sri Rao Bahadur
A.R.Venkata Acharya, B.E., I.S.E.,
Chief Engineer (Irrigation).
General Branch,
Chepauk, MADRAS.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department, MADRAS.

Letter No.4225 WKS /47-4 dated 8th December 1947.

Sir,

Sub:- Public Health - Collection and disposal of Sewage and Industrial Waste and river and beach pollution. Committee -

Ref:- Government Memorandum No.22771 - Spl /47-5, dated 22-7-47.
-do- 8, dated 27-11-47.

The scope of the proposed committee mentioned in the draft order forwarded with the above Memorandum is as follows:-

"To investigate the problems which have been referred to by the Bhore Committee in general and those connected with the Madras City and other similar places in particular in regard to collection and disposal of sewage and industrial wastes and discharge of sewage effluents and industrial wastes into tanks, lakes, streams and the sea"

2. I have to state that in regard to collection and disposal of sewage, a definite programme was drawn up already under the post war development scheme to provide drainage arrangements to all places having a population of more than 5,000, in a period of 200 years. A committee was also recently constituted under G.O.No.1907-P.H., dated 2-6-47 for devising ways and means to accelerate the above programme and it has also sent up final report to Government. If the above programme is followd this problem would get solved.

3. As regards the pollution of water ways in the Madras City, individual sources of pollution were traced out and remedial measures necessary and the agency which has to attend to them were detailed in the Joint Report of the Superintending Engineer, Madras Circle, and the Sanitary Engineer approved in G.O.No.165 P.W.D. dated 19th January 1944. Half yearly reports are being received from the Supg. Engineer, Madras Circle and the Corporation of the action taken to implement the proposals. Thus full data in regard to pollution of water ways in Madras City is available and only thing that is require is money and materials to implement them and an active drive by the Corporation.

4. As regards the problems in other similar places like Madras City referred to in the draft order, I invite attention to G.O.No. 2311 P.H. dated 4-7-47 wherein full instructions have recently been issued to the Municipalities and Panchayats in regard to the standard of purity that the effluent should conform to and the precautions that should be taken before letting it into the existing water course

5. In regard to the standard of purity for sewage effluents (referred to in the Bhore Committee Report) before being permitted to flow into waterways in the City, we are generally adopting the Royal Commission Standards. Sewage schemes are functioning only at three places in the Province and till experience is gained in some more schemes, it would be sufficient to follow the above standards.

6. As regards the standard of purity for trade -wastes referred to in the Bhore Committee each case will have to be decided on its merits by special committees as were constituted in G.O.No.2634 P.H., dated 24-7-38 to devise methods for the disposal of Tannery effluents and in G.O.Ms.2104-1 P W & L 29-7-29 wherein the Director of Public Health and the Sanitary Engineer were appointed as Judges regarding the methods and standards of purification of the effluent from the Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry.

7. In view of the above facts I feel doubtful about the necessity for a committee for investigation of the problems referred to in the draft order. If, however, Government considers that a committee is necessary, the scope of the Committee may be defined to deal with such problems and in such a manner as not to involve a repetition of the work already carried out. I also consider that it is unnecessary to include Chief Engineer (Highways) and Chief Engineer (Irrigation) in the Committee as these have a lot of other work to do and it will suffice if the Sanitary Engineer is appointed to the Committee.

8. The expenditure on account of the travelling allowance to the non-official members of the Committee may be debited to the head " 39 Public Health" as has been done in the case of water Supply & Drainage Scheme Committee constituted under G.O.No.1907 -E & P.H.., dated 2-6-47.

True Copy

t. A.Venkata Raghavan.

r CHIEF ENGINEER, P.W.D.

From C.E., P.W.D. (General) No.4225 Wks/47-4 dated 8-12-47.

The case has arisen out of the suggestions made by the Bhore Committee regarding the collection and disposal of sewage and industrial waste and river and beach pollution. It is not proposed in this file to deal with the general problem of drainage on which the special water supply and Drainage Committee has reported, but what is proposed is that the problems connected, with the river and beach pollution caused by sewage effluents and industrial wastes should be examined by an expert committee, in view especially of the difficulties experienced in carrying out improvements in the present condition of the Cooum and Buckingham Canal. The Chief Engineer whose remarks have been invited on the proposal to constitute a small special expert committee to examine the problems is of opinion that a Committee, as proposed, is not necessary for the following reasons.

(i) In regard to the collection and disposal of sewage the post war development scheme is sufficient.

(ii) Full data as regards pollution of water ways in the Madras city are available, but only men and materials are required to implement them as also an active drive by the Corporation of Madras.

(iii) As regards the letting of sewage effluents into water courses, the instructions contained in G.O.No. 2311 P.H. dated 4-7-47 are sufficient.

(iv) It will be sufficient to follow the Royal Commission standards of purity for sewage effluents until experience is gained of underground sewage system in other places than the existing three.

(v) As regards trade wastes, the standards of purity in each case will have to be dealt with by Special Committees as in the case of disposal of tannery effluents (examined by a committee in 1938) and effluent from the Andhra Paper Mills (dealt with in 1929)

2. Reason (i) in para 1 above need not be seriously considered as what is proposed to be examined in this file is not the general question of drainage. It is doubtless true that data have been collected in regard to the pollution of water ways in the Madras City, but as tangible results in regard improvements to the Cooum and Buckingam Canal have not been achieved, it is for consideration whether a small expert Committee, such as the one proposed in this file may not study the data already collected, review the various suggestions already made and collect fresh data, if necessary, and make definite recommendations as to the measures to be adopted towards a solution of problems with special reference to the Cooum and Buckingham canal. In fact, if this is agreed to, the committee will be a special Committee of the kind referred to by the C.E., at 2 above. Such an expert examination seems to be necessary now, in order to ensure that the money spent in measures for the improvement of the cooum and the

and the Buckingham Canal is well spent.

3. P.W.D may see for remarks in the first instance.

From what the Chief Engineer says it does not appear that there is absolute need for the constitution of the Special Committee as contemplated. Sources of pollution of waterways in the cities have all been traced out and what should be done to eliminate this evil and who should do it has all been settled. The only thing now required is money and materials to implement the decision already reached. A Committee if appointed now, will only help to complicate the issues and postphone the application of the remedy.

I do not think a Special Committee is necessary but orders will be taken in circulation with again

Public Works Department (G)

The notes of E. P. H. from p 11 ante may be perused. The Chief Engineer (G1) who was consulted by Education Public Health in the matter is doubtful about the necessity for a committee of the kind referred to in the note Vide A on p 11 ante No special remarks seem called for. The case may be returned to Education Public Health.

This Department may agree with Chief Engineer and Educatoon and Public Health (Secretary may see in view of the recent agitation re Cooum's insanitary condition).

Education and Public Health Department.

The file relates to the suggestions made by the Bhore Committee regarding the collection and disposal of sewages and industrial waste and river and beach pollution. The general problem of drainage is separately under consideration. It was proposed here to constitute an expert committee to go into the question of the river and beach pollution caused by sewage effluents and industrial wastes, with special reference to the difficulties experienced in carrying out improvements to the Cooum and Buckingham Canal. The sources of pollution of the waterways in the city have already been traced out. What should be done to remove the evil and who should it have also been settled. Only money and materials are required to give effect to the decisions. The Chief Engineer whose remarks were called for on the proposal is not in favour of appointing this committee for the reasons given by him in his letter on pp 7-9 c.f. Public Works Department agree with the Chief Engineer. This Department also consider that a special committee as proposed is not necessary. In the circumstances stated no further action seems called for in this. For Orders

Vide note pp - 12 - 13

The position has been explained clearly in the typed note on page 11-12 ante. The question is whether an expert committee should be appointed to go into the question of the river and beach pollution caused by sewage effluents and industrial wastes with special reference to the difficulties experienced in carrying out improvements to the Cooum and Buckingham Canal. For the reasons stated on page 11 ante the Chief Engineer considers that a committee is not necessary. Public Works Department and the Departments agree with him.

Education and Public Health.
(Health)

Orders have been obtained in circulation that no expert committee need be appointed to deal with the question of river and beach pollution caused by sewage effluents and inudstrial wastes. The papers may be ~~xxx~~ G.O.Ms.1673 Public Health dated 20-5-1948.

RECORDED.

/ TRUE COPY/

Superintendent,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

AG

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